THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Nuclear deal with US

300. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that nuclear deal with US is on the verge of completion;

(b) if so, the current position of this deal; and

(c) by when the final production of electricity would start?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) and (b) India and the United States agreed on 18 July 2005 on the resumption of full civil nuclear energy cooperation between the two countries. In fulfilment of its commitment to separate its civilian facilities from military ones, the Government formulated a Separation Plan that, in its final form, was tabled in Parliament on 11 May, 2006. In pursuance of its obligations, the US Administration has approached the US Congress to adjust its laws to permit the resumption of civilian nuclear cooperation with India. The US House International Relations Committee and the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee voted in favour of Bills to that end on 27 June and 29 June 2006 respectively. The Bills will now be considered and voted upon on the floor of the House and the Senate and if they differ, be reconciled for a final vote.

(c) Only when these and other steps envisaged in the 18 July Joint Statement are completed can the Government contemplate atomic power projects that involve international cooperation. At the present moment, it is difficult to predict when that would happen, as decisions have to be made by bodies and organisations that are independent of or outside the control of the Government. Therefore, the time it would take for production of electricity from neclear power plants set up as a result of international cooperation cannot be indicated at this time.